GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3108
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2008
SHORTAGE OF LPG
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Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether scarcity of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) has assumed such alarming proportions that the supply of gas cylinders takes a month or more after registering the demand with the dealers;

(b) if so, the monthly demand and supply position of LPG during the last six months;

(c) the average time taken by LPG dealers to respond to the consumers' demand to supply the cylinder; and

(d) the steps taken to augment the supply?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) to (d): Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that at present, there is no overall shortage of LPG in the country and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the OMCs through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors. OMCs have further reported that they have supplied 8450 TMT (Thousand Metric Tonnes) of domestic LPG in the country during the period − April, 2007-January 2008 as against 8030 TMT during the corresponding period of last year, showing a growth of 5.2%.

However, OMCs had reported backlog in LPG supplies in certain States in the country due to a combination of factors viz., reduction in supply of bulk LPG by Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) & Essar Oil Limited in January 2008, delay in movement of bulk LPG by rail from Jamnagar to the Northern Region, increased demand in the States due to severe cold which resulted in panic booking by the customers, strikes by contract labour, agitational activities, delays in berthing of vessels at Haldia Port due to reduced draft, bandhs etc.

Government has advised OMCs to liquidate the backlog in the States by operating the bottling plants on holidays and during extended hours. Increased bottling is also being done during the working days for early clearance of backlog.

OMCs have also reported that they have supplied on an average of 876 Thousand Metric Tonnes (TMTs) of LPG per month in the country during the period August, 2007 to January,2008.